

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1.-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) is equipped with a rotatable actuation disc (22).
5. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) is rotatable around the center axis (14) of the control element (11) and is pivoted and supported over transmission elements (26) on the surface (20) of the control element (11).
6. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) exhibits a smooth surface (20).
7. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) exhibits a structured surface (20).
8. (Previously presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) exhibits a geometric form tuned to the control element (11).
9. (Previously presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the actuation disc (22) is shaped like a cap having a rounded edge (24) terminating in a border area (25) projecting downwardly from the actuation disc (22), wherein the border area (25) is disposed between but without contacting the disc-shaped control element (11) and the application casing (15).

10. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the control element (11) exhibits tick marks (12) consisting of twelve marks in regular intervals.
11. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 4, wherein the appliance casing (15) exhibits tick marks (23) next to the edge of the control element (12) consisting of twelve marks in regular intervals where the actuation disc (22) is arranged on the control element (11).
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising selecting a menu by actuating the edge of the control element (11), the position of the actuation on the control element (11) leading to a highlighting of a the menu item at the corresponding position on a display (84, 92).
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising a display of a character repertoire upon actuation of the edge of the control element (11), the position of the actuation on the surface (20) of the control element (11) leading to a highlighting of a character at the corresponding position on a display (84) and the most recently highlighted character is input when the control element (11) is released.
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein a highlighting of a character can be selected by changing positions during the actuated state of the control element (11).

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein a character repertoire consists of the letters “A” to “M” at the upper edge of the screen and the letters “N” to “Z” at the lower edge of the screen.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A control element for electronic appliances comprising
a disc-shaped control element (11) having a circular upper surface (20) and an opposing circular underside (16), with the circular upper surface (20) and the underside (16) being substantially flat and parallel to one another and unsupported in a region of a center axis;

an application casing (15);

a single sensor (18) connected to mounted on the underside (16) and supplying a measurement signal measuring a direction of the tilt and an actuation force exerted on the upper surface of the control element, ~~said sensor arranged at an edge of the underside;~~
and

a plurality of springs (17) positioned between the application casing (15) and the underside (16) of the disc-shaped control element (11) and arranged coaxially around and radially spaced from the center axis of the disc-shaped control element (11) [[:]] ,

wherein the disc-shaped control element (11) is tiltable about the center axis by being manually manipulated any point along a circumference of the circular surface (20), causing the sensor to provide a cursor movement; and

a display displaying a cursor moving in response to the measurement signal, wherein a stronger increasing pressure during actuation along an edge of the control element (11) leads to a faster cursor movement and a weaker pressure along the edge of the control element (11) leads to a slower cursor movement.

21. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 5, wherein the rotatable actuation disc (22) has about its perimeter a downwardly projecting border area (25) disposed between but without contacting the disc-shaped control element (11) and the application casing (15).

22. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, where the control element includes tick marks.

23. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 21, wherein the rotatable actuation disc (22) includes tick marks.

24. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 23, wherein the rotatable actuation disc (22) includes rounded edges (24).

25. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling electronic appliances, comprising the steps of

providing a disc-shaped control element having a circular upper surface and an opposing circular underside, the circular upper surface and the underside being substantially flat and parallel to one another and unsupported in a region of a center axis, said disc-shaped control element having a single sensor mounted on ~~arranged at an edge of the underside and connected to the underside~~ and being tiltable about a central axis, said disc-shaped control element supported in an application casing by a plurality of springs positioned between the application casing and the underside of the disc-shaped control element and arranged coaxially around and radially spaced from a center axis of the disc-shaped control element,

sliding a finger over the disc-shaped control element in a circular motion to provide pressure onto an edge of the disc-shaped control element, pressing down the on at least one of the plurality of springs, providing a tilt of the disc-shaped control element, and actuating the sensor located below the disc-shaped control element, and measuring an activation force with a precision of at least two different levels in addition to a rest state level, thereby registering the tilt,

connecting the sensor to a micro processor controlling a cursor movement, wherein a stronger pressure during the circular motion along the edge of the control element causes a faster cursor movement about a single axis and a weaker pressure during the circular motion along the edge of the control element causes a slower cursor movement along the single axis,
and

continuing the sliding of the finger over the disc-shaped control element for continued cursor movement.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein registering the tilt comprises evaluating the sensors to determine a position of actuation of the control element.

29. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, further comprising a display that is either connected to the application casing or integrated into the application casing.

30. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein a peripheral edge of the disc-shaped control element travels approx. 0.5 to 2 millimeters away from a rest position when tilted about the center axis by manual manipulation.

31. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein a direction of tilt is measured by the sensor with a precision of at least twelve segments of a circle.

32. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 20, wherein the sensor measures the activation force with a precision of at least two different levels in addition to a rest state level.

33. (Previously Presented) The control element according to claim 29, wherein the direction of the tilt and the activation force are measured in simultaneously and transmitted for indication on the display.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of selecting a menu by actuating an edge of the control element, with an actuation position on the edge causing highlighting of a menu item at a corresponding position on a display.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the steps of displaying a character repertoire upon actuation of an edge of the control element, with an actuation position on the edge causing highlighting of a character at a corresponding position on the display, and inputting the most recently highlighted character is when the control element is released.